



# MARINE INVADER MONITORING AND INFORMATION COLLABORATIVE (MIMIC)

MIMIC is a participatory science program through which state and federal agencies, scientific experts, nonprofits, schools, and other groups are trained to monitor established invasive marine species found along the northwest Atlantic coast.

## What are invasive species?

Invasive species are non-native organisms that have been introduced by humans to a new location. They cause harm or have the potential to cause harm to the environment, economy, or public health. Many non-native marine species arrive via commercial shipping vessels, but other “vectors” include marine debris, aquaculture, pet and aquarium trade, and live seafood trade, including bait and packaging, among others.

## What are the goals of MIMIC?

The goals of the program are to...

- Provide **early detection** of introduced species to our region.
- Understand **regional patterns** of established invasive species.
- **Educate** coastal communities about the presence and impacts of marine invasive species.
- Provide **data** to all interested users.
- Get outside and **have fun!**

## How does MIMIC work?

MIMIC participants are trained by CZM to identify 18 introduced species that are established in the region, including marine invertebrates (such as tunicates, bryozoans, shrimp, and crabs) and seaweed. Participants monitor docks, tide pools, cobble shorelines, and dive sites during the summer. Environmental conditions are recorded at the site, then a one-hour search for MIMIC species is completed.

Since 2006, trained participants have monitored for MIMIC species at over 180 sites from Rhode Island to Canada. Since the program’s founding, over 30 partnering organizations have engaged in MIMIC monitoring, with hundreds of participants assisting in data collection.

## Interested in learning more?

Email Lexie Neffinger:  
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website: <https://www.mass.gov/marine-invasive-species-program>

